

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of optimizing packet flow in a ring stackable network architecture, comprising:
  - implementing in a ring network including a plurality of switches;
  - 5        setting a plurality of interruption points each at a location farthest from a unique one of the switches;
  - dividing a packet output path of each switch into two different transfer paths;
  - selecting either transfer path based on an initialization when one of the
  - 10        switches is about to send a packet to the other switch; and
  - sending the packet from one switch to the other switch along the selected transfer path, thereby achieving purposes of optimizing flow and fully utilizing available bandwidth.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein each switch comprises a first stacking
- 15        port and a second stacking port.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein with respect to the packet output path of each switch one transfer path is set as a first transfer path and the other transfer path is set as a second transfer path prior to the initialization, removing one switch, or adding a switch.
- 20        4. The method of claim 3, wherein the first transfer path is coupled to the first stacking port and the second transfer path is coupled to the second stacking port.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein a correct one of the first and second stacking ports is selected for a packet based on the initialization when a first
- 25        computer coupled to one switch is about to send the packet to a second computer coupled to the other switch.
6. The method of claim 4, wherein each switch comprises a path determination software or chip so that when a first computer coupled to one switch is about to send a packet to a second computer coupled to the other

switch, the path determination software or chip is adapted to compare and select a correct one of the first and second stacking ports and a correct one of the transfer paths based on a destination of the packet prior to transfer.